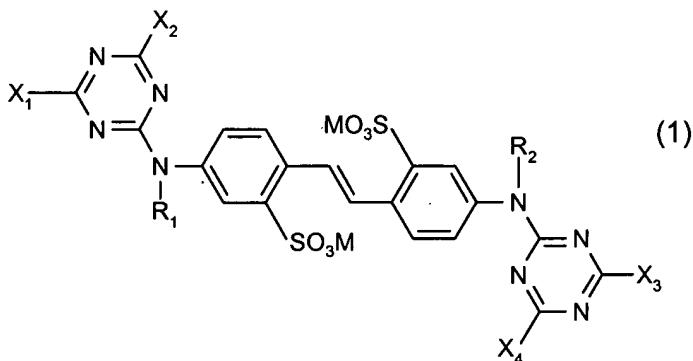


The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation comprising

- (a) 5 – 60% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one compound of formula (1)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are, independently from each other, hydrogen; unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl,

X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> are, independently from each other, -N(R<sub>3</sub>)R<sub>4</sub> or -OR<sub>5</sub>, wherein

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are, independently of each other, hydrogen; cyano; unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl; substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl; unsubstituted C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl or unsubstituted C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl; or R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, form a heterocyclic ring, and R<sub>5</sub> is unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl, and

M is hydrogen, or a cation alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium, mono-, di, tri or tetra C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylammonium or mono, di- or tri-C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-hydroxyalkylammonium,

- (b) 0.01 – 1% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one anionic polysaccharide,
- (c) 0 – 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one electrolyte,
- (d) 0 – 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one dispersant,
- (e) 0 – 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one further fluorescent whitener,
- (f) 0 – 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one further optional component, and

(g) water to make up 100% by weight.

2. (original): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising 5 – 60% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one compound of formula (1), wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, independently from each other, hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> are independently from each other a radical of formula -N(R<sub>3</sub>)R<sub>4</sub>, wherein

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are, independently from each other, hydrogen; cyano; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, -COOH, -H<sub>2</sub>NC(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>-, -CONH<sub>2</sub> or phenyl, and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl group is uninterrupted or interrupted by -O-; unsubstituted C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-substituted C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl; or

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, form an unsubstituted morpholino, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-substituted morpholino, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring.

3. (original): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising 5 – 60% by weight, based on the total weight of the whitener formulation, of at least one compound of formula (1), wherein

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>3</sub> are -NH<sub>2</sub>,

X<sub>2</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> are, independently of each other, a radical of formula -N(R<sub>3</sub>)R<sub>4</sub>, wherein

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are, independently from each other, hydrogen; cyano; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted hydroxy, carboxy, -COOH, cyano, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, NHC(NH)NH<sub>2</sub> or phenyl, and wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl group is uninterrupted or interrupted by -O-; unsubstituted cyclohexyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-substituted cyclohexyl; or

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, form an unsubstituted morpholino, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-substituted morpholino, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring.

4. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising

5 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the formulation, of at least one compound of formula (1).

5. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 wherein the anionic polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carboxymethylated guar, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethyl-starch, carboxymethylated locust

bean flour and xanthan gum.

6. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising

0.05 to 0.5% by weight based on the total weight of the formulation, of at least one anionic polysaccharide.

7. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 wherein the electrolyte or the mixture of electrolytes are selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts and salts of lower carboxylic acids.

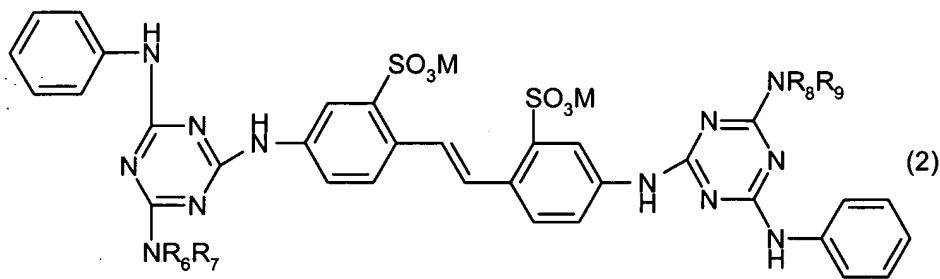
8. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising

0.5 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the formulation, of at least one electrolyte.

9. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 wherein the dispersant or the mixture of dispersants are selected from the group consisting of alkylbenzenesulfonates, alkyl or alkenyl ether-sulfonate salts, saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, alkyl or alkylene ether-carboxylic salts, sulfo-fatty acid salts or esters, phosphate esters, polyoxyethylene alkyl or alkenyl ethers, polyoxyethylene alkylvinyl ethers, polyoxypropylene alkyl or alkenyl ethers, polyoxybutylene alkyl or alkenyl ethers, higher fatty acid alkanolamides or alkylene oxide adducts, sucrose/fatty acid esters, fatty acid/glycol monoesters, alkylamine oxides and condensation products of aromatic sulfonic acids with formaldehyde and lignin-sulfonates.

10. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the formulation, of at least one dispersant.

11. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising of at least one further fluorescent whitener of formula (2)



wherein

$R_6$  and  $R_8$ , independently from each other, are hydrogen; unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl,

$R_7$  and  $R_9$ , independently from each other, are hydrogen; unsubstituted phenyl; unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl or substituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl, or

$NR_6R_7$  and/or  $NR_8R_9$  form a morpholino ring,

and  $M$  is hydrogen or a cation.

**12. (original):** A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 11 wherein

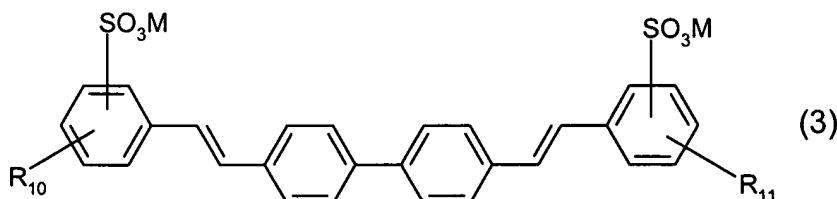
$R_6$  and  $R_8$ , independently from each other, are hydrogen; unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_2$ alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl, which is substituted by hydroxy or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy,

$R_7$  and  $R_9$ , independently from each other, are unsubstituted phenyl; unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_2$ alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl, which is substituted by hydroxy or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy, or

$NR_6R_7$  and/or  $NR_8R_9$  form a morpholino ring,

and  $M$  is an alkali metal atom.

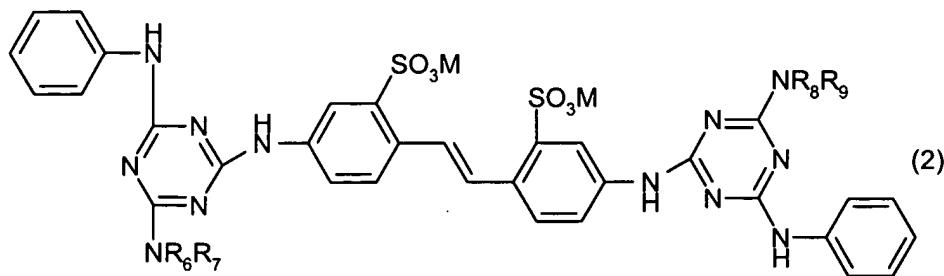
**13. (previously presented):** A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising of at least one further fluorescent whitener of formula (3)



wherein

$R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$ , independently from each other, are hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl;  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkoxy or halogen, and  $M$  is hydrogen or a cation.

14. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising 0 to 25 % by weight of at least one further fluorescent whitener of formula (2)



wherein

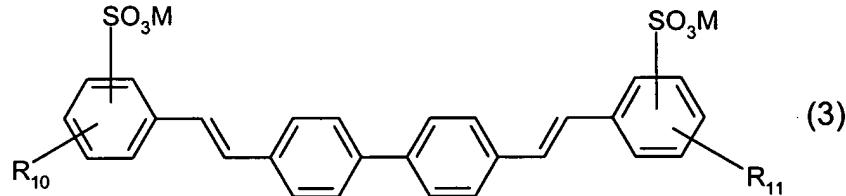
R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, independently from each other, are hydrogen; unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl,

R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>, independently from each other, are hydrogen; unsubstituted phenyl; unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl or substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl, or

NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> and/or NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub> form a morpholino ring,

and M is hydrogen or a cation

and/or formula (3)



wherein

R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub>, independently from each other, are hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkoxy or halogen, and M is hydrogen or a cation.

15. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 wherein optional components are selected from the group consisting of preservatives; Mg/Al silicates; odour improvers; perfuming agents; antifoam agents; builders; protective colloids; stabilizers; sequestering agents and antifreeze agents.

16. (previously presented): A storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the formulation, of at least one optional component.

**17.** (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1 , which comprises mixing the moist filter cake or the dry powder of the fluorescent whitening of formula (1) with least one anionic polysaccharide and water, and homogenizing the formulation.

**18.** (previously presented): A method for the preparation of a detergent composition, which comprises incorporating into said composition an effective whitening amount of a storage-stable fluorescent whitener formulation according to claim 1.